

# VIEWS *from the* WOODS

*Hitchcock Woods*  
FOUNDATION

Vol. 1, No. 1

Fall 2007

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As of 10/31/07

I. Lehr Brisbin, Ph.D.

Courtney W. Conger

Patricia E. Corey

Lee H. Dane

Nancy C. Francis

Iris W. Freeman

Patricia S. Goodyear

Peter L. Gray

William M. Hitchcock

Gail B. King, Chairman

Lucy M. Knowles

Lucetta C. Knox

Linda Knox McLean

Scott D. Riviere

Harry E. Shealy, Jr., Ph.D.

Timothy W. Simmons

Dacre C. Stoker

Sandra E. Tucker

Randolph A. Wolcott

Sara S. Wood

## STAFF

Douglas E. Rabold

Executive Director

Christine M. Reichel

Administrator

Carol J. Stewart

Communications Specialist

W. Bennett Tucker

Woods Superintendent

Namon Corley

Woodsman

Deon R. Mealing

Woods Steward

(803) 642-0528

## ONE OF AIKEN'S GREATEST GIFTS

*Harry E. Shealy, Jr., Ph.D.*

*Vice Chairman*

One of the greatest gifts the citizens of Aiken ever received is the gift of Hitchcock Woods. Of course, the Woods have been here much longer than Aiken, but it was in September 1939 four years after the death of his wife, Louise, that Thomas Hitchcock established The Hitchcock Foundation with a gift of 1191 acres of wonderful forest. Thomas Hitchcock and his daughter Helen became the first two trustees of the Foundation. Today there are about 20 trustees and six staff members of the Foundation who still watch over and manage the Woods with the same love, care, and vision as the founding trustees.

Since 1939, the trustees have managed to increase the acreage of the Woods from 1191 to almost 2100 acres. The histories of Aiken and the Woods have always been intertwined. Being a trustee for over 25 years, I have been privileged to have had a unique seat to witness part of this history. When I began as a trustee back in 1980, we had one meeting each year to approve the actions of the Executive Committee and give them the authority to conduct business for the coming year. The one hour meetings were usually held at the Green Boundary Club and concluded with tea and lace cookies. As Aiken and the Woods have grown, so have our responsibilities to manage them. We now meet much more often and longer and the issues we face are definitely more complex. But we all know the Woods are worth it!

There are many things that make the Woods special ... just ask the different users. Many people like to walk. Some run; others ride horses while a few ride in horse drawn carriages. Curiously, some people just like to know that the Woods are there and they have not changed and that they will not change.



Thomas Hitchcock in his vision left the Woods to be managed not as an urban park but as functioning forest; a remnant of a huge ecosystem that once dominated the entire southeastern United States. Hitchcock Woods is a small piece of a longleaf pine, wire grass savanna ecosystem; an ecosystem that once covered over 90 million acres of coastal plain from southern Virginia to eastern Texas, probably the largest ecosystem in North America. My interest in the Woods is to help restore as much of the Woods to what it must have looked like in 1491. It's a difficult task, but one that drives most of the management decisions of the Board of Trustees. In future issues of this newsletter, I hope to tell you more about the Woods and how and why we manage them.

## CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION REMINDER

If you've reached age 70-1/2, a change in the Pension Protection Act (enacted last year), could spell a nice donation for your charity of choice and a terrific tax break for you. To qualify, your distribution must be a "qualified charitable distribution."

The qualified charitable distribution rule is only available for 2007 IRA payouts. No more than \$100,000 can be treated as a qualified charitable distribution. So, if you fail to use up your entire \$100,000 privilege this year, you won't get another chance unless Congress extends the break.

Be sure to check with your tax professional to see if you can benefit from this tax break!

Below are the names of new members and those who have renewed their membership since July 1, 2007. The first person to join the Friends of the Woods program when it was unveiled in September 2006 was the community's beloved Kitty Windham, winner of the Aiken Chamber of Commerce's Woman of the Year in 1999. Thank you, Mrs. Windham, for your devotion to this community.

## Friends of the Woods

### BUSINESS PARTNERS

A. G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.\*  
Aiken Outdoors Club\*  
Aiken Preparatory School\*  
Aiken Saddlery and Supply+  
Airmasters of Aiken, Inc.+  
Andrew C. Marine, Attorney At Law+  
Baker Family Dentistry+  
The Brad Bennett Company+  
Conservation Services+  
Edge Media Inc.+  
General Elliott Inn+  
Graves Auto Salvage+  
Dr. and Mrs. Anthony Harris+  
Hass and Hilderbrand, Inc.+ †  
Hutson-Etherredge Companies+  
King Management, Inc.+  
Lionel Smith Ltd.+  
Management Recruiters+  
Southeastern Mortgage Consultants+  
Sweet Water Tree Farm, LLC+  
Woodside Farm "Hospice for Horses" \* †

### FRIENDS OF THE WOODS

Mr. and Mrs. Barry Acord+  
Karen L. Alexander+  
Jacquie and David Allen+  
William G. and Kim E. Allen+  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Anaclerio+  
Pim and Pat Andringa+  
Doris and Eugene Bailey+  
Elizabeth W. Baumann\*  
Drs. Baxt+  
Richard G. and Charlotte R. Baxter+  
Ceelie and Bill Beacham+  
Mrs. Jacquelyn M. Blanchard+  
Bill and Darlene Blosser+  
Laurel Blossom+  
Frank and Norma Boatwright\*  
Laura Boatwright+  
Carroll Ann Bowers\*  
Helen and David Boyce+  
Art and Suzanne Bremer+  
Donna and I. Lehr Brisbin+  
Kit and Clyde Bryant+  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Buchanan, Jr.+  
Dan and Michele Bullington+  
Marsh and Lisa Burckhalter+  
Nancy A. Bush+  
Larry and Pat Byers+  
Tommy and Janie Carey+  
Catherine B. Carlisle+  
Mr. and Mrs. Milton W. Carothers, III+  
Lynn F. Carter+  
Anonymous+  
Donald and Dolores Cerefin\*  
Samantha Charles+  
Jenny and Ken Chase+  
Robert D. Chelberg+  
The Venerable Garrett M. and Mrs. Ruth Clanton+  
Mary E. Clarkson+  
Catherine Clay and John R. Neal+  
Bernadette and Paul Clayton+  
Charles Combiar+  
Courtney W. Conger+  
F. Leigh and Lois Cooper+  
Charles and Joan Cope+  
Alan and Pat Corey+  
Mr. Namon Corley+  
Miss Deborah Costa+  
Ann L. Coward+  
Robin and Ed Coward+  
Cynthia and Wayne Cross+  
Diana Crowley+  
John W. Cunningham+  
Judy L. Cunningham+  
Susan and George Dalzell+  
Roger and Lee Dane+  
Tim and Anna Dangerfield+  
Lawrence S. Davis+  
Priscilla and Ed Denehy+  
Paul and Kris d'Entremont+  
Robin Derrick+  
Dick and Mary Lou Dewar+  
Michael and Joya Distefano+

Kim Dorfman+  
Sarah Eakin\*  
Bruce and Maxine Eberhard+  
Tom and Karen Egan+  
Mr. and Mrs. William S. Elkins+  
John and Mo (Maureen) Empie+  
Dr. and Mrs. Gaines Entekin\*  
Mrs. Roger B. Etherington+  
Richard and RuthAnn Evans\*  
Lucy Fenstermacher+  
Linda and Mick Ferrell+  
Jim and Sandra Field+  
Paul T. and Katherine Fisher+  
David Fleming+  
John and Gail Flintom+  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph W. Foster+  
Dr. Rose Lee and Stewart Bell Fox+  
Nancy C. Francis+  
WC (Mike) and Iris W. Freeman+  
Ron and Carol Garrett+  
Ann D. Garvin+  
Anne Jim and Ellen Geddes+  
Barbara and Richard C. Gilbert\*  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Glassman+  
Donald K. Gordon+  
Donna Graham\*  
Peter and Molly Gray+  
Amy and Rob Gray+  
David and Catherine Griffin+  
Melvyn L. Haas+  
Dr. and Mrs. John Haddon+  
Robert and Laura Hall+  
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Hammond+  
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Harkins+  
Nancy and Bob Harrington+  
Marcus Jerome Harris\*  
Toi Trent and Sandy Harris+  
John and Jennifer Harte+  
Diane Haslam and Bruce Hammond+  
David and Sue Hayes+  
Steve and Jean Heard+  
E. J. Heerdt\*  
Ron Henderson+  
Mr. and Mrs. W. Gibbs Herbruck+  
Dr. and Mrs. Guy C. Heyl, Jr.+  
Rev. and Mrs. Robert B. Hibbard+  
Jim and Jackie Hill+  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hill+  
Karl and Erin Hirschhorn+  
Peggy M. Hitchcock+  
Mrs. Laura C. Holley+  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Holley+  
Charlotte and Jim Holly+  
Dave and Mary Honkonen+  
Mike and Lisa Hosang+  
Barbara Hill Hough+  
Hollister Houghton+  
Mrs. S. Alger Howard+  
Ms. Sandra S. Hubacher+  
Jane Adriance Huff+  
Pete and Tricia Hughes+  
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Huiet+  
Linda and Sam Hunley+  
Diana F. Hunt+  
Drs. Louis and Christine Huzella+  
Bonnie Ideal+  
Kevin and Sylvia Igoe+  
Rich and Linda Izard+  
Robert T. Jackson+  
Lynn Carlisle and Craig Jarvis+  
John and Sally Jenkins\*  
Michael and Toni Jerome+  
Doris and Henderson Johnson+  
Dana S. Jolley+  
James C. Jordan+  
Priscilla Jordan+  
Teresa Kane+  
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Kanne, Jr.+  
Jim Kannenberg+  
Barbara B. Kemp+  
Arthur and Cathy Kepes+  
George Kierspe+  
Gail Balding King+  
Kyle Kipnis+  
Dr. and Mrs. Mervyn Kipnis+  
Carolyn and George Klotzbaugh+

Jean and Glenn Knowles+  
Fred and Eleanor Krusch+  
Kurt Kruke and Clare Buchanan+  
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Lacher+  
Michael Laughlin+  
Douglas Leader+  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lemmon+  
Christopher T. Linen+  
Angela Little and Tate Hilliard+  
Bob and Gale Littlewood+  
Linda and Ron Long+  
Ted MacDermott\*  
Scott MacMurray+  
John Manes+  
Granger Marchman\*  
Margaret Marion+  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Matthews+  
Tom and Barbara Matthews+  
Mr. and Mrs. Stewart D. Maurice+  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael McCormick+  
Linda Knox McLean+  
Dr. and Mrs. James McMillen+  
Vicki McNair+  
Richard and Sara McNeil+  
Charles and Gwen Mettlen\*  
Paula Michaels+  
Bernice and Robert Miller+  
Mark and Pat Miller\*  
Vivian G. Milner+  
Mr. Jefferson B. Fraser and Dr. Marion Minkwitz+  
Ann and Larry Mitchell+  
Mrs. William G. Mitsch, Jr.+  
Bob and Kay Moody+  
Ltc (Ret.) and Mrs. Robert E. Moore+  
Lynn Mullins+  
Betty Murdock+  
W. C. and June H. Murff+  
Frederick O. J. Muzi+  
Kim Etherington Myers+  
Mr. and Mrs. Sherry B. Myers +  
Jim and Kawanna Nance+  
Beth and Bob Newburn+  
Mr. Edward L. Newburn+  
Rebecca T. Newell, MD+  
Charles and Rosemary Newton+  
Michael and Leigh Norton\*  
Don and Pamela O'Neil+  
Charles Onstead, MD+  
Jim and Wendy Parker+  
Greg and Michele Paschal+  
Sally Patterson+  
Karen Peck-Moniak and Don Moniak\*  
Cecilia and Julius Pellegrino\*  
Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Perrine+  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Perry, Jr.+  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert H. Peters, Sr.\*  
Anne Mitchell Pezzano+  
John and Diane Pierpoint+  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Powers Jr.+  
Dennis and Marcia Quinn+  
Mr. and Mrs. William Raab+  
Doug Rabold and Gene Eidson+  
Marita Rappleye+  
Dr. and Mrs. John R.T. Reeves+  
Rick and Christine Reichel+  
Robyn Reilly+  
Anonymous+  
Buzz and Sallye Rich+  
T. Robert Richards+  
Scott D. Riviere+  
Rich and Deborah Robbins+  
Mr. and Mrs. Royal Robbins+  
Jack and Carolyn Roberts+  
Forrest Roberts+  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey J. Roberts+  
Pamela A. Robinson+  
Linda Rooney+  
Joyce P. Ross+  
Patricia and Joseph Rothman+  
Gil and Jane Anne Royal+  
Betty and Greg Ryberg\*  
Carol Ryder+  
Barbara Rystrom and Greg Weis+  
Marilyn and Dean Sackett+  
Lito and Gina Salatino+

Tom and Jo Santay+  
Beat Schaffner+  
Joan A. Schisler\*  
Jean Schlichte+  
Tim and Shelly Schmidt+  
Dr. and Mrs. Russell E. Schurtz\*  
John M. Seabrook+  
M. Brannon Sell\*  
George and Rita Sewell+  
Tim and Monte Simmons+  
Dr. and Mrs. Paul K. Simons+  
Gary E. Smith and Helen Belencan+  
Lynn Smith+  
Paul and Elizabeth Smith+  
Richard and Donna Smith+  
Scott and Kaye Smith+  
Al and Cindy Snell+  
Shauna Rickerby-Sober+  
Mr. and Mrs. Allan C. Sorensen+  
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Spencer+  
Robert and Mary Ethel Stack+  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Stanton+  
Mrs. Louise H. Stephaich+  
Grant J. and Clarise Stephens, Jr.+  
Randy and Carol Stewart\*  
Anonymous+  
Gail Stoker+  
Robert A. and Patricia D. Stokes+  
Robert and Judi Storey+  
Barbara and John Strack\*  
Carl and Linda Strojan+  
Patty and Gary Stumbaugh+  
John and Kathy Theissen+  
Barbara T. and Richard P. Thomas+  
Alexandra S. Thomas+  
Carol and Willard Thompson+  
Pamela and Rickie Thornton+  
Al and MaryAnne Todd+  
Camille Tomaini+  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Tomaino+  
Frampton W. Toole, Jr.+  
Anne Torreyson Magerkurth and Win Magerkurth+  
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Troutman+  
T. Bradley and Lisa Tucker and family+  
Mrs. Mary Ann Tucker+  
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Tucker+  
W. Bennett Tucker+  
Barb and Tom Uskup+  
Ms. Tiitu Vainu+  
Bob and Jan Van Buren\*  
Michael R. Van Every+  
A. B. Van Liew+  
Dick and Pam Verenes+  
Frantz and Lorayne Verhelst\*  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Wade+  
Brad and Nancy Walker+  
David H. Walker+  
Alice and Doug Walker+  
Sara P. Wampole+  
Nannie von Stade Ward+  
Greg and Christina Warfield+  
Gracie and Jerry Waters\*  
Wallace K. Watkins+  
Harry Weeks, Jr.+  
Paul and Terry Weinle+  
Michael and Lisa Wells+  
Bill and Sue Western+  
Mr. and Mrs. James Wetzel+  
Dexter G. White+  
Brooks and Deanna Whitfield+  
Dr. Charlotte and Boyd Wiedenman+  
Nancy Wilds+  
Terry and Eleanor Willows+  
Roy and Ruth Wilson+  
Mrs. Roland H. Windham+  
Elizabeth J. Witham+  
Randy, Girl and Caroline Wolcott+  
Sara and Mike Wood+  
Susan Wood+  
Jesse and Connie Young+  
Anna W. Zouck+

Renewals as of 11-19-07 +  
New members as of 11-19-07 \*  
Sustaining Partner †

## CROSS COUNTRY RACE

South Aiken High School hosted a cross country meet in Hitchcock Woods on October 17 giving about 120 young runners from Irmo, Aiken and South Aiken high schools the opportunity to compete on a "true" cross country course. Both Aiken and South Aiken high schools run regularly in the Woods, enjoying the training benefits of the sand and hills.

The race began on Cathedral Aisle allowing for a lovely walk for parents and spectators. Despite the dry conditions and soft sand, all the runners enjoyed the route, and the spectators enjoyed being able to see the runners at several points along the course. Individual honors went to James Jackson from Aiken High and Raheema Hodges from Irmo. South Aiken prevailed in the boys race overall, and South Aiken girls earned team honors.

Coach Russ Busbee and Coach Anne Geddes want to thank the Hitchcock Woods Foundation for allowing us to host this race, giving runners and spectators an opportunity to see a small piece of the Woods. We particularly want to thank Bennett Tucker for his help before, during, and after the race. Coach Busbee and I try to instill in our young runners a bit of the history and tradition, and a sense of the uniqueness of Hitchcock Woods in hopes they will continue as stewards of this treasure for years to come.



## LEADERSHIP AIKEN COUNTY VISITS THE WOODS

The 2007-2008 class of Leadership Aiken County visited Hitchcock Woods during the program's "History and Horse Industry Day" in October. The Woods were but one stop on a very busy agenda for the day, the first in a series of nine daylong excursions by the class over a nine-month period.

Executive Director Doug Rabold provided an overview of the Woods and the Foundation and led this year's large class on a walk to Memorial Gate. After the visit, program organizer Johanna Blue wrote, "I think the Hitchcock Woods is an exceptionally valuable part of our history as well as our future."

Leadership Aiken County is sponsored and coordinated by the Greater Aiken, North Augusta, and Midland Valley chambers of commerce. The program is designed to identify, develop, and motivate new leadership for the Aiken County community. This year's class represents a diverse and dedicated pool of talented individuals.



## HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA

What do you get for the person who's hard to buy for, or who seems to have everything? How about a \$50 membership in the Hitchcock Woods Foundation's Friends of the Woods program ... or a gift of any amount to the Foundation made in the person's honor?

Members of the Friends of the Woods program get a beautiful, 2008 monthly wall calendar featuring photographs of the Woods by Shelly Marshall Schmidt, one of Aiken's outstanding professional photographers. Members also get our newsletter and annual report, and are recognized as members in those publications. They receive invitations to member events, a "Friends of the Woods" vehicle sticker, and discounts on Woods merchandise.

When you make a gift in honor or in memory of someone special, the Foundation sends a greeting card to the name and address you provide, noting your donation (not the amount) and explaining that the funds will be used "to preserve and maintain the Hitchcock Woods for the benefit of Aiken and its citizens." See the accompanying photograph of the front of the greeting card. Gifts of honor or memorial also will be noted in our newsletter.



*This donation will help in our effort to preserve and maintain the Hitchcock Woods for the benefit of Aiken and its citizens.*

P.O. Box 1702 • Aiken, SC 29802  
(803) 642-0528  
www.HitchcockWoods.org  
Federal Tax ID: 57-0181600

Whether you purchase a gift membership or make a donation in honor or in memory of another, your gift is tax deductible and you will receive a letter specifying your contribution. If you have any questions, please call 803-642-0528.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AIKEN HOUNDS

The Aiken Hounds, formerly called the Old Aiken Drag, were established in 1914 by Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hitchcock of Long Island who came to Aiken in the early 1900s to escape the long New York winters. They brought their hunters, race horses, steeplechasers and polo ponies with them to Aiken by train. The Hitchcocks purchased the land we know as the Hitchcock Woods from local farmers and used it as an exercise ground for their steeplechasers during the winter months. The Woods at that time were more than twice their size today, encompassing more than 5,000 acres of sandy land interspersed with towering long leaf pines.

Mrs. Hitchcock first began hunting a beagle pack in the Woods, importing rabbits from the mid-west and releasing them in the Woods to be pursued by her beagles. The green livery that is worn by the Aiken Hounds Masters and staff today harkens back to those days.

At some point the Hitchcocks decided to introduce a drag pack – a pack of foxhounds that would follow a fox's scent over a pre-set route. They had already built miles and miles of 'drag' lines of fences for their steeplechasers – many of the fences were over five feet in height – to be jumped at speed in either direction throughout the Woods, so introducing hounds into the mix only added to the fun!

The tradition continues today. The fences are lower and the Woods are smaller, but enthusiasm for the chase has not diminished. The Joint Masters of today's Aiken Hounds are Mrs. Linda Knox McLean, Ms. Lellie Ward, and Mrs. Nancy Francis.

The Aiken Hounds will be in Hitchcock Woods each Tuesday afternoon from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm and each Saturday morning from 8:30 am to 11:30 am through May 2008. All other dogs are prohibited in the Woods during these times.

The Aiken Hounds celebrate their 93rd anniversary this season. The annual Opening Meet and the **Blessing of the Hounds** will be held on Thanksgiving morning, **Thursday, November 22, 2007, at Memorial Gate at 11:00 am**. The public is welcome to attend the Blessing, but be reminded that it is quite a long walk from Laurens Street to Memorial Gate, and no motorized vehicles are permitted in the Hitchcock Woods. Also, please leave your own dogs at home!

## NEW STAFF MEMBER – CAROL STEWART

Please join us in welcoming Carol Stewart, who was hired in September to fill the position of Communications Specialist. Carol will focus on the Foundation's communications initiatives and will help support the many details of our fundraising events.

Before joining the Foundation, Carol served for seven years as the Communications Specialist at Trinity on the Hill United Methodist Church in Augusta. While there, she provided communications support to a congregation of over 2,000 members through weekly newsletters, brochures, and posters. She also has worked for Serotta Maddocks Evans & Co., CPAs in Augusta, as well as the University of South Carolina Aiken.

Originally from the east side of Dallas, Carol grew up in the shadow of the Mesquite rodeo, so she's a longtime Western rider. Immediately after moving to Aiken County in 1986, she discovered Hitchcock Woods and has spent countless hours enjoying the trails and forest habitat.



## PLEASE REMEMBER THESE RULES ...

We have experienced higher temperatures along with exceptionally dry weather this year. Please be reminded that the following activities are not allowed in the Woods:

- No littering or smoking
- No fires, firearms or firecrackers
- No motorized vehicles
- No bicycles
- No hunting or fishing



Thank you for helping us protect and preserve the Woods, keeping it natural and ecologically healthy for all to enjoy!



P.O. Box 1702  
Aiken, SC 29802